

We claim:-

1. Polymer mixtures including the components (i)
5 hydrogel-forming polymers capable of absorbing aqueous fluids and prepared by polymerization of olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acids or derivatives thereof, and (ii) copolymers of C₂-C₈ olefins or styrenes with anhydrides.
- 10 2. Polymer mixtures as claimed in claim 1, wherein the component (i) is granular or fibrous and the component (ii) is independently granular or fibrous and optionally the component (ii) is additionally fibrous or granular.
- 15 3. Polymer mixtures as claimed in claim 1, wherein the component (ii) is sprayed onto the component (i) as a polymer or as a monomer mixture with subsequent polymerization.
4. Polymer mixtures as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein
20 the component (i) is based on polyacrylate.
5. Polymer mixtures as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the component (ii) is granular.
- 25 6. Polymer mixtures as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the component (ii) is unhydrolyzed.
7. Polymer mixtures as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein
30 the anhydride component of the component (ii) is maleic anhydride and the olefinic or styrene component is selected from one or more of the following compounds: isobutylene, vinyl acetate, ethylene and styrene.
8. Polymer mixtures as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, wherein
35 the component (i) is a grafted product, especially on carboxymethylcellulose.
9. Polymer mixtures as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, wherein
40 the component (i) is present in a fraction in the range from 99.7% by weight to 85% by weight and the component (ii) is present in a fraction in the range from 0.3% by weight to 15% by weight.
10. Hygiene articles including polymer mixtures as claimed in any
45 of claims 1 to 9.

11. The use of polymer mixtures as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9 as an absorbent for aqueous fluids that provides reduced odor formation.

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45